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Correspondence from practical farmers, giving the results of their experience, is solicited. Contributions should be signed with the writer's name, in full, which will be printed or not, as the writer may wish.
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Good Farming with Ten Acres.
My farm is but 10 acres by actual measurement, and I find it a pretty big farm at times, too, so much so that during the last few years of the scarcity of labor I have had to work a little harder than I really wanted to. Do not think to escape work on a small farm, simply because the work must be better done in all its details, and thus our profits are increased accordingly.

BEGIN SMALL.
There are probably many people situated just as I was and cannot afford to buy and equip a large farm, for indeed it takes a small fortune today to buy, stock and equip a large farm, but they could start a nice, little, comfortable home for themselves and family with what capital they have at hand, and not be obliged to carry a mortgage all their lives. I know of many who went so heavily in debt at the outset that they are only able to keep up the interest year by year. This I call slavery. All such, if really they must have a large farm, would do much better on the fertile, out-of-the-way lands of northern Wisconsin, that can be had cheap, and from which they could in a few years own a home from incumbrances.

All people have not the aptitude to follow intense farming, for, as I said before, it requires some degree of science and skill to manage even a small farm, but by beginning small and growing up with your business as I did, and by study, work and care, a small fortune today to buy, stock and equip a large farm, but they could start a nice, little, comfortable home for themselves and family with what capital they have at hand, and not be obliged to carry a mortgage all their lives. I know of many who went so heavily in debt at the outset that they are only able to keep up the interest year by year. This I call slavery. All such, if really they must have a large farm, would do much better on the fertile, out-of-the-way lands of northern Wisconsin, that can be had cheap, and from which they could in a few years own a home from incumbrances.

SMALL BUT GOOD FARM.
Several years ago my whole possessions were worth about \$1300. I had farmed for others all my life, supported a family and saved the above amount, and came to the conclusion I would own some land, that henceforth I would be my own boss, so I began to look for a location. I realized that location had a great deal to do with the kind of farming I would be obliged to follow. Land at that time was worth close to \$100 per acre in this vicinity, so my hearers can easily see that my capital would not go far towards starting even a ten-acre farm, but I purchased 9 1/2 acres at \$100 per acre, leaving me but \$350 to build dwelling house, poultry buildings, buy fruit stock, berry plants, etc. I could see but one course to follow, and that was to mortgage my prospective home, which I did at \$800. This, with what I had left from the original capital, enabled me to build a dwelling, poultry buildings, etc., but right here another problem confronted me. What was to live on while waiting for my farm to produce? I had given up working for others; my investment needed all my time and to neglect it meant to lose it. I was obliged to give a second mortgage of \$800, making my total indebtedness \$1300, but I was not discouraged. Located as I was, near one of the best markets, I knew that a few good crops would clear all indebtedness, and they did. In just five years I was out of debt. I could have cleared it up sooner had it not happened that I started in business just as the panic of '93 was sweeping the country and prices were not what they have been since for poultry and fruit products.

LOCATION OF THE SMALL FARM IMPORTANT.
Location must be considered. Because a good deal of shipping must be done to and from such a plant, it is the part of wisdom to locate as near a shipping station as possible. If poultry is to be made the backbone of the enterprise, as it is with me, the land should slope to the south, or, still better, southeast, so as to catch the early morning rays of "Old Sol." Poultry and fruit certainly make a splendid combination, running the fruit as an adjunct to the poultry, managing the poultry so that the major portion of our crop is placed on the market in winter and early spring. In fact, I never recommend poultry from any other standpoint. Have a small brood house, so that a nice lot of winter broilers can be put upon the market in early spring. The same brood house can be used to get out our spring stock from which to select our next winter's layers and yearlings to be sold in June, while prices are high, and to get them out of the way of growing pullets as well as to lighten up on the labor problem.

POULTRY AND FRUIT.
The growing pullets should be so selected that they have the run of the land,

thereby getting three crops from the same land each year, and a very efficient way of ridding the fruit plants of insects, curculio, etc., distributing the fertility as they go from the detached colony houses. The manure is taken directly to the tree and cane plants, and spread where it at once becomes available, and is one of the best fertilizers known for fruit.

LIVE STOCK ON FRUIT FARM.
A stable should be built to accommodate not less than three cows and a horse or two. Their scope, why keep so many cows on such a small farm? I do not do it because there is any considerable amount of money derived directly from dairying, but to get a large amount of good manure to grow fruit, and the milk comes in so nicely for the poultry. In fact, my way of managing poultry demands milk, so if I can pretty nearly sell butter enough to pay for the keeping of the cows I get the manure and milk for my labor. But if one can locate near a city where they can get plenty of manure and can also get plenty of milk for the poultry, it would not be advisable to keep too many cows. At present I am buying food for six head of stock, and consider my money well invested.

ONE OF THE SECRETS.
I consider one of the secrets of my success in growing small fruits attributable to the liberal use of stable manure. By this method of running a small farm a revenue is coming in at all seasons of the year. It is much safer to follow mixed farming, even in a small way, for we have seasons that are unfavorable to certain kinds of crops, and it is well to have something else upon which to rely for an income. I find poultry the surest and safest of all my undertakings. No matter what the season, a full crop can be relied upon. It requires experience, however, to succeed with fowls, especially the winter egg business. No one should jump into the business and expect to make money from the outset.

A TEN-ACRE FARM.
rightly managed, will bring a good living, including the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. This I have fully demonstrated, and what I have done others can do.—C. E. Mattoon.

In the Potato Country. VII.
One of the attractive farms in the Aroostook potato section is that of A. P. Young of Houlton. The substantial brick house, with well-kept, roomy farm buildings all suggest prosperity and a business run on a substantial foundation. The farm comprises ninety acres, but is carried on in connection with another farm of 115 acres. The soil is of that yellow light texture, but fertile loamed characteristic of nine-tenths of the Aroostook County farms.

"THE POTATO"
is about the only cash crop," said Mr. Young, "that we can raise here. We are only about twelve hours from Boston, and a letter put in the office at six o'clock is delivered in Boston next morning before business hours, so that the dealer finds it on his desk when he goes to his office. So we are able to keep well in touch with the markets. The dealers know the leading growers up this way, and whenever they want potatoes they write to us and keep themselves informed as to how many potatoes there are for sale and make offers when they want to buy. We get many letters every day on this subject. We also get the daily Produce Exchange Report and take the various farm papers to keep us informed of the general market situation."

BUYING AND SELLING.
Mr. Young, it should be said, is a buyer as well as a grower, and hence receives more correspondence than the average farmer. He has large potato houses, one of which is shown in the illustration, and buys potatoes from his neighbors when he thinks the market prospects warrant an advance in price. The price paid is that current in Boston, less the freight and a charge for handling. The profits of the buyer depend on the course of the market. Sometimes he loses money, but if his judgment and good fortune favor he makes a profit when figures begin to advance. As a rule there is some advance in price immediately after the digging season, and the buyer has a good chance of making something for his trouble. Some years there is a later decline, and perhaps a serious loss for the holder. Some of the larger growers find it best, taking one year with another, to sell direct from the field, thus avoiding all extra expense. Potatoes can be marketed at less cost at that time than at any other.

Like other Aroostook growers Mr. Young plows the land the fall before, and in the spring it is harrowed repeatedly and the soil firmed. The harrowing and the after cultivation make the earth a powdery mass by midsummer, a perfect potato bed, which admits rapid growth of roots and becomes a most valuable store of looked-up plant food.

THE SEED POTATOES
are of medium size and are set lengthwise, the smaller ones one to two and the larger ones twice or more. The end eyes are left on the pieces. Those pieces which have the end eyes will grow only these eyes and the others will not start, but if there are no end eyes the others will push out sprouts, which, however, start a little later than the end ones. Cutting the seed is a part of the work which cannot be done satisfactorily by any kind of machine or implement, as good judgment is needed in handling the potatoes of different shape and size. Two or three eyes to a piece is enough.

POULTRY AND FRUIT.
The growing pullets should be so selected that they have the run of the land,

ure, it is found, will not spread in the potato planter, although the home mixture will answer for planting grain, etc. On this farm the Aspinwall planter is used, a machine which does rapid work, but sometimes skips hills. There is another machine which does not skip hills, but requires an extra man to go behind and feed on the seed, so that opinion is divided between the two leading machines, the question being whether the avoidance of skipped hills is worth the extra labor required by the other machine.

BEFORE THE POTATOES ARE UP
they are gone over with a horse hoe, the blade set so as to throw the dirt over the row. A week later the horse hoe is sent over the rows again with the blade slanted the other way, so as to throw the dirt away. This process being repeated about eight times through the season destroys the small weeds every time. If the field is worked when it ought to be worked, weeds get no start. "I should like to cultivate every day," said Mr. Young, "but we have to compromise by cultivating as often as we can. The only difficulty with the weeds is an occasional patch of witch grass or couch grass, which the horse hoe will not kill out, and these weeds must be killed by hand. The witch grass is a great pest, and if it



AN AROOSTOOK POTATO CELLAR.

Mr. Young and assistants handling the crop. See page "In the Potato Country."

once becomes established in the potato field it cannot be grown at a profit."

THE CROP IS SPREAD
with the usual bordeaux mixture and paris green, using the four-row sprayer in common use throughout this section, and the spraying is repeated frequently at the time when blight usually appears in order to prevent attacks of the disease. The crop is dug with a potato digger, usually the Hoover, although other varieties are used to some extent. From the field the crop is carted to the potato houses at the station. Most of the farmers use barrels for transportation, taking the old barrels in which fertilizer is shipped. At the potato house the barrels are emptied into bins or perhaps directly into the cars and the barrels taken back. A wagon with body set very low between the wheels is in common use, making the handling of the potatoes as easy as possible. When the potatoes are shipped to New York they are usually bagged, a work which is done by the buyers at the potato houses.

If the farmer does not sell his crop from the field he carts it from the field to his own storehouse, which is usually dug into a side hill, although sometimes a building entirely above ground is used. The illustration shows the outside appearance and interior of Mr. Young's farm storehouse. Sometimes the grower reaps large profits by holding his crop until spring. The present season is an example, when the spring price was much higher than at any other time. But the profit must be considered in the light of the heavy extra expenses of storing and handling the crop and the necessary shrinkage from long keeping.

Mixed Outlook in Vermont.

Some mowing fields are looking very well, indeed, but more are in a bad condition. The grass is thin in places and in many places it has been killed out. The seed rains have come and these will greatly help where the conditions will admit. As the barns on most of the farms are empty, notwithstanding last year's heavy crop of hay, there is some anxiety as to the future.

The early corn crops are growing nicely, but the seedling has been greatly delayed on account of the wetness of the land and is not at this time all completed. This will bring the cultivation of the crops and haying on most farms into too close proximity for the most satisfactory work.

The season has been unfavorable for pastures, and in consequence the grass has been fed freely, not affecting as much nourishment for the cows as they should have received, but conditions are now better, and the yield of milk has probably reached its height for the season. For various reasons it has been less than usual up to the first of June. Prices for butter have been fair, and it is to be hoped they will not be lower than at present. The shearing of so much in cold storage will be apt to afford relief from any over-production or accumulation of stock, were this possible.

this will start up anew along with the trade in skim milk. A pound of butter and a dozen of eggs command about the same price now.

Apple orchards have blossomed quite freely, and there should be at least a moderate supply of fruit. The gardens where well cared for are looking well, and they should not be neglected in the busy work upon the farm.

Crops Late but Thrifty.
The onion and tobacco crops are not so extensively grown in this town as in some parts of the Connecticut valley, but the several growers of each crop in Montague have succeeded in starting a very promising crop of both. A. M. Lyman has four acres of tobacco well planted out. L. D. Ball has a field of fine onions. Messrs. Gillett and Smith have large fields of Japanese millet, growing it for the seed, at \$1 per bushel. Mr. Smith grew about one thousand bushels last year.

Sometime in June have been improved with clouds and rain. June has started in with several hard thunder showers with hail. Mowings and pasturings are looking well.

been done in its presence manifest. Hence it is a wise precaution to sow wood ashes and lime in the squash hills and about the vines before this worm gets a chance to do any harm. Planting squash in a new place every year helps their escaping, to some extent, the ravages of insect pests.

FRED O. SIBNEY.
Otsego County, N. Y.

Notes from Washington, D. C.
NEW AGRICULTURAL BUILDING.
Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture was the subject of condemnation at the hands of the House of Representatives this week on account of his conduct in connection with the construction of the new Agricultural Department building, the total cost of which was limited by Congress to \$1,000,000. The secretary had made a statement before the appropriation committee of the House showing that he had used this fund in the erection of two wings, and that additional appropriations would be necessary to build and equip the administration building, which is to connect the two wings, and that the general plan of construction is such that before the entire structure is completed several millions of dollars will have to be further appropriated by Congress.

The members of the committee on appropriations questioned Secretary Wilson and other officials of the department to ascertain definitely by whose orders this work had been conducted in this fashion. The secretary contended that he had used the appropriation to the best advantage, but that he was not responsible for the growth of the department. The committee brought out the fact that the ends of the two wings are of ordinary brick, and built so they would fit on to a central structure whenever it should be constructed. It was also shown that the south wall of the two wings facing B street and extending to the curb line of that street were of ordinary brick. This was done, it appears, in order that the building could at some future time be extended across B street, the whole department building ultimately taking the form of a grand quadrangle.

"We have arranged the four parts of the building for extensions," said Secretary Wilson, "whenever it shall please Congress to make the extensions, and I have been living under the impression that we have been doing a very creditable work."

APPROPRIATION INSUFFICIENT.
As a matter of fact Congress very seldom provides adequate appropriations for the Government department buildings. Even at the time the appropriation was made for the Department of Agriculture, the new building contemplated was insufficient to house the various bureaus of the department, and no provision was made whatever for any growth of this important branch of the Government. The department has been growing for the ten years prior to this building appropriation, and has since been growing at a remarkable rate, and has been doing a great good in the interests of the largest and most important of our producing classes. To properly accommodate the present employees of the department at this time, a building nearly twice as large as the one appropriated for a few years ago, and which is now in the course of construction, would be required.

Now the department offices are distributed here and there in brick buildings, wooden sheds, dozens of small private houses which have been turned into offices, and all spread about and scattered over an area of probably nearly a square mile. The situation is by no means ideal, from the point of view of an economical and convenient office administration, nor will the completion of the present structure help matters very much for the years prior to this building appropriation, and has since been growing at a remarkable rate, and has been doing a great good in the interests of the largest and most important of our producing classes. To properly accommodate the present employees of the department at this time, a building nearly twice as large as the one appropriated for a few years ago, and which is now in the course of construction, would be required.

MEAT-INSPECTION GOSSIP.
Washington is beset today in an unwelcome mass of packing-house odors as the result of the action of the Senate in passing the Beveridge meat-inspection amendment, and there are charges and countercharges in answer to the Neil-Reynolds reports which President Roosevelt submitted to Congress with recommendations for the upholding of the measure fathered by Senator Beveridge of Indiana.

The preliminary report of the commission appointed by the President, incomplete as it is, is sufficiently shocking, leaving enough to the imagination of the public to arouse recent indignation at the hands of a public which has been imposed upon by the monopoly. The report morally convicts the packers of Chicago, and perhaps of other cities, of commercial methods that are a disgrace to civilization, and now the opinion seems general that the inspection law will be adequate enough unless it provides for the closest scrutiny of every process in meat packing.

While the President's commission only spent 21 weeks in Chicago, what it saw, as visitors say, the scenes which were enacted within this body beholding them, leaves much for the imagination to revolt from at the possibility of the hidden.

The whole situation now appears to be in the hands of Congress, with a most educated, fair, the conditions in packing-houses are not the result of political parties.

but for which alone the packers themselves are guilty. The opinion is general here that Representatives and Senators, whether Democrats, Republicans or Independents, should rise and show to the world that the United States can correct an evil without political pot boiling and wrangling sectionalism.

DEEP TRUST CONGRESSIONAL JUNKET.
There is some talk here of the appointment of a Congressional junket or commission to investigate the charges made by the Neil commission and also those of Upton Sinclair in "The Jungle." This proposition seems to be favored by Speaker Cannon and Chairman Wadsworth of the House Committee on Agriculture. The argument is made, however, that such a commission will find everything rosy in the packinghouse, and that the packers will greet the junket with open arms and smiling faces. Such a commission would hardly see the things the President's representatives saw and sojourned as much as the ordinary visitor saw a month ago.

If this plan be adopted, the junket, it is charged, would kill plenty of time, adopting no decisive plan, until near the time of adjournment, when the agricultural appropriation bill would be rushed through both houses without the remedial amendment or by the adoption of the Wadsworth-Lorimer substitute, which would give the packers just what they desire.

DISEASE AND INSECT RESISTANT CROPS.

The Department of Agriculture has been making some experiments in order to obtain resistant crops. This subject is of great importance to farmers, as the experiments already made demonstrate that it is possible to obtain a variety of most all of the standard vegetables and fruits, which can to a greater or less extent ward off the attacks of insects of blight. While it is true that many plant insects can be controlled by the various poisons and cultural methods, for some of these, however, as for example the rust of wheat, peach yellows, clover seed fly, etc., satisfactory remedies have not yet been discovered. It is therefore of great importance to know whether it is possible to secure varieties of crops immune or less subject to attack by insect or diseases, and which will succeed where other varieties fail. It is a known fact that a great number of the European grapes planted in this country fall wherever the American grapefruit louse is present, because the louse is able to attack and destroy the root of these sorts. The roots of the native American grapes, however, when attacked by the same louse are so hard and wiry that this insect cannot destroy them. In other words, they are resistant. The unusual resistance of the Kieffer pear to blight has made it possible to grow this fruit in the South, where other varieties fail, because of the disease. The Little Iron variety of cow pea has proved so resistant to disease that it has, in many cases, survived where other sorts planted alongside have been killed by the disease. American gooseberries are but little subject to the mildew which seriously affects English varieties grown here.

During recent years the agricultural experiment stations of Maine, Minnesota and Vermont have made experiments to obtain a disease-resistant type of potato. While these experiments have not yet produced a tuber wholly proof against late blight or rot, much protection may be secured through originating new varieties from seed, especially those of hybrid origin. Some of these seedlings do not show superior disease resistance, but the evidence at hand, however, seems to justify the hope that the co-ordinated efforts of potato specialists, working from both the practical and scientific standpoints, may soon result in the development of varieties combining general excellence with a high degree of disease resistance.

GUY E. MITCHELL.

Notes from the South Shore.

Although the spring has been rather late, still vegetation hardly ever looked better. Frequent showers have kept the grass along so that a good hay crop is assured. Pastures are looking well; potatoes and corn, though not quite so large as usual at this time in June, are thriving. Bugs are after the potatoes as soon as they are up and farmers have to pick the beetles by hand.

Orchards have bloomed pretty well except the Baldwins. Strawberries are looking fine, the frosts have hurt them very little. Potatoes are selling for \$1 per bushel. Hay at the barn, \$17 per ton; eggs, twenty cents per dozen.

H. A. TURNER.
Plymouth County, Mass.

Rules of a Hay Farmer.

Never dig ditches to fill with rocks in a grass field.

Never underdrain your grass field until you find it necessary.

Never pasture or make a road bed of your grass field, or let animals stand, stamp or otherwise kill the grass roots. Timothy and red-top seed sown on an old field will not renew the stand.

At best an egg is a very perishable article. Preserving must be done to a nicety, and I have no sympathy with those who

to say, he never failed after that we
keep all their berry bushes well matched.

FRED O. SIBLBY.

Orange County, N. Y.

For twenty years or more we have sowed
plot to calms, containing about sixteen
puns reds. From this we have sold partly
on \$35 to \$40 worth of calms, besides re-
taining a year's supply for the family.—D.
Brown, Waldo County.

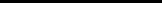
—The change of uranium into radium and then into helium is suggesting other possible transmutations that are more or less startling. The origin of coal oil has been difficult to explain in view of its abundance, and one ingenious theorist suspects that its carbon may have been derived from the slow breaking up of silicon, the element that constitutes more than a fourth of the earth's crust. Heavy elements appear to transmute into lighter ones. The atomic weight of silicon is twenty-eight while that of

The squash vine borer, which works inside the stem near the surface of the ground, is the most destructive enemy to the crop in the older settled parts of New England. Mr. T. Grimes, the well known authority on market gardening, recommends burying the stems frequently with ground with strong tobacco, thus, by putting tobacco dust all about, or deep all around the plants, which will keep the borers away from the stems. Also hill up the joints of the plants as soon as they begin to run, inducing them to form roots at these joints, and thus

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The Workbox.

varied than at present. There are
d. covert. Panama, staining brilliant

wall to the sides of the pan." "Having butter cakes in, Mrs. Rorer thinks, that the recipe for the cakes is as follows:—
 Fruit, pound and beat; 1 cup of cake making sugar; 1/2 cup of butter; 1/2 cup of milk. The fruit, require a very slow oven and long cooking. "Do not open the oven door to regulate the heat; manipulate the stove," cautions. "If, however, the oven, through negligence, gets very hot, open the door and stand a pan of cold water in the oven before putting in the cake. Do not open the door again until the cakes are done, and close the door carefully." "The angel's food and sunshine cake requires a cool oven at first, says the author. These light cakes all the dry ingredients to be added to the well-beaten whites. The angel cake also belongs to this class, but only the sugar is beaten with the yolks, and then the whites are added and the mixture put in at last. These cakes are usually baked in ungreased pans. Most of these are best for cakes without butter. To

Care of Stocks and Collars.
Half the battle is always wearing neat, fresh-looking neckwear is to have a place where it may be kept in good order. No matter how beautifully laundered stocks and collars may be they will soon become

How to Housekeepers.

To remove fruit stains stretch the fabric containing the stain over the mouth of a basin and pour boiling water on the stain. In cold water the spots can frequently be removed by hanging the stained garments out of doors over a fence. If the stain has been fixed by time, soak the article in a weak solution of oxalic acid, or if it over the fumes of sulphur.

By rubbing emerald green examining the can carefully, and if the stain fails to reject them, as this cures the presence of can, which renders the stains unfit for food.

One of the latest fashions in that colony is a cure rheumatism. It is reported that the disease is curable if the vegetable is cooked and

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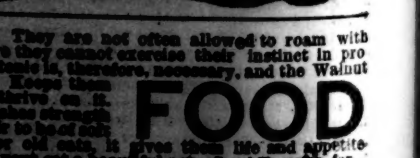
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A dark, high-contrast photograph of a building at night. The building is mostly in silhouette, with some architectural details like a gabled roof and a small tower or steeple visible against the dark sky. A small, bright light source is visible in the upper left corner, possibly a window or a light fixture. The overall image is very dark and grainy, with a high level of contrast.

HANCOCK TAVERN, CORN COURT, BUILT IN 1800.
Historic old building in the produce market district of Boston.

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Historic ob

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